



Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

Citizen Summit IV

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Emergency Preparedness Information

How will the District communicate with citizens during an emergency?

ALERT DC

- The District has developed the Alert DC system, which provides immediate text notification and emergency voice notification to update citizens during a major crisis or emergency.
- This system delivers important emergency text alerts, notifications, and updates on a range of devices including your e-mail account [work, home, other], cell phone, pager, Blackberry, wireless PDA (Palm, iPAQ, etc). Anyone can register for this program.
- For more information go to www.dcema.dc.gov

Voice Alert System

- The Voice Alert system is a telephone voice messaging system that allows emergency managers to notify citizens of an incident that requires them to take some protective action (e.g. evacuate, shelter-in-place). Citizens are automatically enrolled by their home telephone numbers and are not required to sign up for this service.

Emergency Alert System

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a partnership with local media in which emergency messages are broadcast over local media outlets. The purpose of the EAS is to permit local government officials to broadcast timely information and instructions in threatened or actual local emergencies. The primary radio stations (FM/AM) to listen to in the District of Columbia include: WTOP 1500 AM, 820 AM, 107.7 FM, WMAL 630 AM, WGMS 103.5 FM, WJZW 105.9 FM, WKYS 93.9 FM, WHFS 99.1 FM, and WPGC 95.5 FM
- For more information go to www.dcema.dc.gov

How should I prepare for the Flu or Flu Pandemic

- The National Capital Region has developed a Syndromic Disease Surveillance program. The program links area Public Health Departments, hospitals, physicians, and diagnostic laboratories and enables health professionals to detect unusual disease patterns and disease outbreaks that occur naturally or are the results of bioterrorism.
- It is important for our residents to understand that they can take very effective measures to protect themselves and their families from influenza and other contagious diseases. Some of these measures include:
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and water when available
 - Using waterless, alcohol-based hand washing solutions when water is not available
 - Covering coughs and sneezes with tissues and disposing of tissues properly
 - Not sharing eating utensils
 - Limiting contact with people who are sick
 - Staying home from work if sick
 - Getting annual influenza vaccination
 - Seeking medical care when needed.
- For more information go to www.dchealth.dc.gov

What can I do in my neighborhood?

- The District government encourages each community to establish an Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) and to update and exercise their Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).
- The CEMPs were created through a collaborative process with District residents, who took part in emergency management planning and training meetings held by DCEMA. The primary purpose of the Emergency Preparedness Committee is to facilitate the development of community and neighborhood-based volunteers into a cadre of organized partners who can come together during a disaster.
- With input from DC residents, the DC Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA) drafted plans to help DC communities prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies. There are 39 Community Emergency Preparedness Plans for neighborhood clusters throughout the District of Columbia.

Emergency Evacuations

- The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has developed evacuation plans for the District that includes street routes, bike trails, and mass transit. DDOT has identified certain streets as emergency routes that can be easily identified by inbound and outbound signs as well as street name signs, which include the red and white District flag.
- During an evacuation, traffic signals (lights) will be timed to move traffic away from the event/incident area across the jurisdiction. DDOT will also use the emergency alert system as well as Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) station (1650 AM) to provide citizens with real-time information regarding transportation conditions and incident specifics.
- DDOT has variable message signs that can be deployed during emergencies and posted at key evacuation routes throughout the city to also provide information to motorists about road conditions and other critical information.
- This information can also be found in DDOT's Transportation Tips during an Emergency Incident brochure or at www.ddot.dc.gov.

What can citizens do to be prepared?

Make a plan

- All citizens can make emergency plans for themselves and their loved ones. These plans should include information on family meeting places and family contacts you might call if your family becomes separated.
- Citizens should prepare "Go-Kits" with basic supplies including important medication, a flashlight and portable radio. A home preparedness kit should also contain food and water.
- Citizens should take into consideration members of their household who have special needs, small children, and pets.
- For more information on emergency supplies, plans, and evacuation means, please visit www.makeaplan.org

Citizens should also visit the following websites for additional information:

www.dcema.dc.gov

www.k12.dc.us/dcps/emergency

www.alert.dc.gov

www.ddot.dc.gov

www.dchealth.dc.gov